

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ABF-01 /077 W

----- 106045

R 290955Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 312

AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 4840

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BG, PK, NP

SUBJ: REPATRIATION OF BIHARIS TO PAKISTAN

REF: A. DACCA 2098 B. LONDON 7072

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION SEVERAL SCHEMES FOR REPATRIATION OF UP TO 30,000 BIHARIS FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH. CATEGORIES BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDE: 1,200 NOW IN KATHMANDU; 6-8,000 PREVIOUSLY CLEARED FOR UNHCR AIRLIFT WHO WERE CAUGHT BY JULY '74 CUTOFF; 8-10,000 WHO INITIALLY WERE REFUSED BUT WHOSE CASES HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY REVIED BY GOP; AND UP TO 10,000 ADDITIONAL HARDSHIP CASES NOW UNDER GOP STUDY FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER PARA 3(V) OF DELHI AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR RE-COMMENCEMENT OF REPATRIATION AND ACTION SEEMS UNLIKELY BEFORE AUTUMN. STICKING POINTS, AS PERCEIVED BY GOP, ARE PROBLEMS OF REHABILITATION AND OF OPENING WAY FOR RENEWED BDG DEMANDS THAT GOP TAKE MORE BIHARIS.

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HOWEVER, FINANCES, GOP FEELS, CAN BE EASILY REALIZED.  
ICRC'S SOUTH ASIAN REPRESENTATIVES, WHO MET LAST WEEK  
IN DACCA TO PLAN REPATRIATION OF 15,000 BIHARIS,  
WITH OCTOBER TARGET DATE, HAVE INFORMED BDG OF THEIR CONTIN-  
GENCY PLANS. BENGALIEE MFA OFFICIAL WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO  
ICRC'S SUGGESTION THAT BDG ASK PAKS TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL  
HARDSHIP CASES. HOWEVER, ICRC REP HERE THINKS USG  
INITIATIVE IN DACCA MAY MEET WITH SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. REPATRIATION FROM NEPAL: EMBOFF RECENTLY MET  
SEPARATELY WITH MFA DIRECTORS ASMAT HASAN (BANGLADESH)  
AND GHORI (NEPAL AND REFUGEES), NEPALI EMBOFF RAJI-  
HANDARI AND ICRC REPRESENTATIVE PAUL EYNARD TO DISCUSS  
BIHARI REPATRIATION TO PAKISTAN. ALL FOUR SET 1,200  
AS NUMBER REMAINING IN KATHMANDU. DIRECTORS SAID GOP  
HOPES TO BRING THEM HERE WITH "A FEW MONTHS" OR  
"BEFORE COLD WEATHER". RAJIHANDARI DISCLOSED THAT  
GON IS PRODDING GOP TO MOVE AS BIHARIS ARE PROVIDING  
UNWANTED ECONOMIC COMPETITION(AT SHOPKEEPER LEVEL)  
WITH NEPALIS. GHORI SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT  
POSSIBILITY THAT REPATRIATION WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER  
INFLUX OF BIHARIS INTO NEPAL. HE NOTED THAT ONLY  
THOSE REGISTERED AT PAK EMBASSY BEFORE MID-1974 WILL  
BE ACCEPTED.

2 BIHARIS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED: EYNARD, WHOSE  
ORGANIZATION IS PROBABLY MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT NUM-  
BERS, SETS 6,000 AS APPROXIMATE NUMBER FOR THOSE  
PREVIOUSLY CLEARED BUT CUT OFF BY END OF UNHCR AIR-  
LIFT, AND THUS AS ACCEPTABLE TO PAKS AT RECOMMENCEMENT.  
(HASAN USES FIGURE 6-8,000). BENGALIEE CONTENTION THAT  
12,000 REMAIN IN THIS CATEGORY IS INACCURATE, EYNARD  
MAINTAINS, AS MANY HAVE ALREADY COME TO PAKISTAN AND  
THOUSANDS MORE ARE ACCOUNTABLE AS MULTIPLE APPLICANTS  
(AT LEAST ONE MAN FILED FIVE SEPARATE APPLICATIONS).

3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS REJECTIONS: ICRC DACCA HAS  
FORWARDED OVER 100,000 REQUESTS FOR GOP REVIEW  
OF INITIAL REJECTIONS. OF THESE, HASAN TOLD EMBOFF,  
GOP'S CABIHIR DIVISION EXPECTS TO CLEAR 6-8,000 FOR  
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REPATRIATION. HASAN SET NO DATE FOR COMPLETION  
OF REVIEW BUT, ACCORDING TO EYNARD, IT SHOULD BE  
COMPLETED WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

4. ADDITIONAL HARDSHIP CASES: EYNARD REVEALED IN  
CONFIDENCE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CATEGORIES THE  
GOP IS QUIETLY CONSIDERING A PLAN TO ACCEPT AN ADDITION-  
AL NUMBER (ABOUT 10,000) OF HARDSHIP CASES. THESE

WOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL THOUSAND WHO ARE NOW IN JAIL OR  
IN DETENTION CAMPS AS EX-MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES,  
PLUS UP TO TWO THOUSAND NOW UNEMPLOYABLE URDU MEDIUM  
TEACHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. ACCORDING TO EYNARD,  
PAKS WOULD CONSIDER TAKING ADDITIONAL NUMBERS AS A  
STEP ENVISIONED IN PARA 2(V) OF THE NEW DELHI AGREE-  
MENT. BUT THEY WOULD DO SO ONLY AFTER BENGALI INITIATIVE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 313

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 4840

5. STUMBLING BLOCKS: ALL REPATRIATION, PAKS SAY, IS  
DEPENDENT PRIMARILY ON THE PRESENT REHABILITATION  
PROGRAMS' RELOCATING SOME OF THE 40,000 BIHARIS WHO  
REMAIN IN RESETTLEMENT CAMPS INTO NEWLY BUILT HOUSING  
SCHEMES. THIS WOULD ALLOW SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL REFUGEES  
IN WHAT GOP DESCRIBES AS NOW-CROWDED CAMPS. WITH WHAT  
EMBOFF TOOK TO BE PITCH FOR USG CONTRIBUTION HASAN  
DESCRIBED AN ONLY MARGINALLY FUNDED \$40 MILLION  
HOMEING AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM ON WHOSE PROGRESS,  
HE MAINTAINED, FURTHER REPATRIATION DEPENDS. IN  
ADDITION, EYNARD AND MFA OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THAT  
REOPENING THE ISSUE OF BIHARI MOV TENT, NO

MATTER IN WHAT NUMBER, IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO REQUIRE  
A TOP LEVEL GOP DECISION.

6. FINANCES: ACCORDING TO HASAN, WHEN THE GOP IS  
PREPARED TO REOPEN REPATRIATION ISSUE IT WILL  
APPROACH UNHCR AND ASK THEM TO FINANCE TRANSPORTATION  
COSTS. THE MONEY PROBABLY WOULD COME FROM ARAB SOURCES,  
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HE VENTURED, WITHOUT REVEALING SPECIFIC SOURCES. IN  
ANY EVENT, NEITHER HE NOR GHORI SEEMED TO CONSIDER  
THE LACK OF FUNDS PRESENTED A PROBLEM. HOWEVER, ONE  
ARAB OFFER OF ASSISTANCE, EYNARD DISCLOSED , HAS BEEN  
SPURNED. OMAN'S AMBASSADOR, HE SAID, REVEALED TO HIM  
MUSCAT'S OFFER TO GOP TO FLY THOSE BIHARIS NOW IN  
NEPAL HERE IN AN OMANI AIRCRAFT. THE PAKS REPORTEDLY  
WERE NOT RESPONSIVE.

7. THE ICRC'S REGIONAL REP(DELHI BASED FRED ISLER)  
AND DACCA AND ISLAMABAD BASED REPS MET LAST WEEK IN  
DACCA TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE REPATRIATION SCHEMES.  
EMBOFF SCANNED AN AGREED UPON SCENARIO WHICH EN-  
VISIONS MOVEMENT OF 15,000 PERSONS AT THE RATE OF 500  
PER DAY AT A COST, EXCLUSIVE OF TRANSPORTATION,  
OF \$2 MILLION. TRANSPORTATION MIGHT COME TO AN  
ADDITIONAL \$1.5 MILLION. ICRC HAS INFORMED THE PAKS  
THAT THEY WOULD PREFER SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS LEAD TIME  
FOR THE EXERCISE WHICH THEY TARGET FOR OCTOBER.  
ACCORDING TO EYNARD, ICRC WAS UNHAPPY WITH JOB UNHCR  
DID LAST TIME AND WOULD MUCH PREFER TO HANDLE IT ALL  
THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, GOP INSISTS THAT UN GET PART  
OF THE ACTION.

8. EYNARD REPORTS THAT ISLER ALSO MET IN DACCA WITH  
BENGALEE MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) MURSHED  
TO BRIEF HIM ON PROPOSED SCHEME. ISLER SUGGESTED THAT  
TIME MIGHT BE PROPITIOUS FOR BDG TO ASK THAT GOP  
ACCEPT ADDITIONAL NON-BENGALLEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
NEW DELHI AGREEMENT. MURSHED, HOWEVER, RESPONDED  
THAT THE PAKS COULD BROACH THE MATTER IF THEY CHOSE  
BUT THAT THE BENGALLEES WOULD NOT.

9. EYNARD CALLED EMBOFF'S ATTENTION TO PRIMIN BHUTTO'S  
FEBRUARY INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK'S PATRICIA SETHI IN  
WHICH PM IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT GOP PREPARED TO  
DISCUSS ADDITIONAL BIHARIS FOLLOWING PROPER BDG  
INITIATIVES AND SAID HE DISCUSSED ARTICLE WITH HAYAT  
MEHDI PAK MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA), WHO ALLOWED THAT  
THE HARDSHIP CATEGORY (SEE PARA 5 ABOVE) IS WHAT PM HAD IN MIND.  
THUS, ICRC FEELS, IF BENGALLEES TAKE THE INITIATIVE, THEY MAY

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NOW MEET A FAVORABLE RESPONSE. WHEN EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT ICRC APPROACH BDG AT LEVEL HIGHER THAN MURSHED TO SUGGEST SUCH AN INITIATIVE, EYNARD OBSERVED THAT ICRC LACKS INFLUENCE IN DACCA, THUS IS RELUCTANT TO TRY. BETTER, HE SAID, WOULD BE A SUGGESTION FROM A "BIG AND FRIENDLY COUNTRY" SUCH AS THE US.

10. DACCA MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON EYNARD'S SUGGESTION THAT THE USG URGE BDG TO TAKE INITIATIVE ON MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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